

agreed. That is the former governor of Wisconsin. He knows what this is like. He knows how States are strapped for cash, how State public health departments have suffered, and how we need to do something to help.

So there would be grants given in this bill for those States. Activities funded under the grant would include conducting an assessment of core public health capacities, achieving the core public health capabilities and fulfilling preparedness plans. The bill would also establish a new grant program for hospitals, as I have mentioned.

Title IV, developing new countermeasures against bioterrorism. As I said, we need to expand our Nation's stockpile of smallpox vaccine, critical pharmaceuticals. Title IV gives the Secretary authority to enter into long-term contracts with sponsors to guarantee that the government will purchase a certain quantity of vaccine at a certain price.

This problem with vaccines has been one that has vexed the government for a number of years. The pharmaceutical companies traditionally have not been interested in producing vaccines. It is not a big money maker for them. Maybe one person in a million can suffer a serious problem, including death from a vaccine. It probably is closer to four to six people can suffer some serious permanent sequela from a vaccine and one person might die out of a million. Consequently, there have been problems with lawsuits and liability related to that.

The lab that the government has wanted to produce the anthrax has had real problems with control and sterility and cleanliness. It is clear we need to devote some funds for this.

Title V deals with our Nation's food supply. With 57,000 establishments under its jurisdiction, we have only 7- to 800 food inspectors, including 175 import inspectors for more than 300 ports of entry into this country. The FDA needs increased resources for inspections of imported food. There is no question about that. Secretary Tommy Thompson agreed with that today.

The President's emergency relief budget included a request for 61 million to enable the FDA to hire 410 new inspectors, lab specialists and other experts, as well as to invest in new technology and equipment. We think that should be done.

Title V grants the FDA needed authority to ensure the safety of domestic and imported food. It allows the FDA to use qualified employees from other agencies. It makes sure that the FDA has authority to prevent port-shopping by marking food shipments denied entry at one U.S. port to ensure that they just do not show up at another U.S. port. It gives the FDA additional tools to ensure proper records are maintained by those who manufacture, process, pack, transport, distribute, receive food. It may debar a person who engages in patterns seeking

to import contaminated food. A number of issues are involved.

There is one issue, for instance, local to my State of Iowa. We have in Ames, Iowa, the National Animal Disease Center. They deal with a lot of very powerful infectious diseases. We need to make sure that that facility is secure, and we need to make sure that it is updated and modernized in order to fulfill its function. My colleagues may remember that with these anthrax cases, the anthrax is being traced to a type of anthrax called the "Ames variety."

So these are a number of things that are in the bill that the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. BERRY) and I will introduce tomorrow, the companion bill to the Senate bioterrorist bill, Bioterrorism Preparedness Act of 2001. I would strongly encourage my colleagues to sign up as cosponsors for this. We already have a fair number of bipartisan cosponsors for this bill. We will be dropping this tomorrow sometime.

This is something that the language will be out there. People can look at it over Thanksgiving recess, and I would hope then that we could have a debate on this, both in the Senate and in the House sometime in the first 2 weeks of December. This is something, along with aviation security, that I think our constituents are demanding that Congress put aside partisan concerns and address as a national security issue.

Once again, I want to recommend to my colleagues that they read this book on germs, become experts on this. We are going to get a lot of questions from our constituents at our town hall meetings. Sign up for this bill and we will be able to tell them some of the good things that we are going to be able to do to try to improve our ability to handle a potential epidemic or bioterrorist threat.

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So with that, Mr. Speaker, I hope that we proceed with this in a timely fashion.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. FORBES). Pursuant to clause 12 of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

Accordingly (at 7 o'clock and 45 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 8 of rule XII, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

4582. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting a draft bill entitled, "Promotion and Support of Responsible Fatherhood and Healthy Marriage Act of 2001"; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

4583. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Health and Human Services, trans-

mitting a draft bill entitled, "FDA Export and Import Fee Act of 2001"; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

4584. A letter from the Deputy Associate Administrator, Office of Acquisition Policy, General Services Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule—Federal Acquisition Regulation; Veterans' Employment [FAC 2001-01; FAR Case 1998-614; Item IV] (RIN: 9000-AI46) received November 13, 2001, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Government Reform.

4585. A letter from the Deputy Associate Administrator, Office of Acquisition Policy, General Services Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule—Federal Acquisition Regulation; Very Small Business Pilot Program [FAC 2001-01, FAR Case 2001-001; Item VI] (RIN: 9000-AJ16) received November 13, 2001, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Government Reform.

4586. A letter from the Deputy Associate Administrator, Office of Acquisition Policy, General Services Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule—Federal Acquisition Regulation; Small Entity Compliance Guide—received November 13, 2001, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Government Reform.

4587. A letter from the Deputy Associate Administrator, Office of Acquisition Policy, General Services Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule—Federal Acquisition Circular 2001-01; Introduction—received November 13, 2001, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Government Reform.

4588. A letter from the Deputy Associate Administrator, Office of Acquisition Policy, General Services Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule—Federal Acquisition Regulation; Application of the Davis-Bacon Act to Construction Contracts with Options to Extend the Term of the Contract [FAC 2001-01; FAR Case 1997-613; Item I] (RIN: 9000-AI47) received November 13, 2001, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Government Reform.

4589. A letter from the Deputy Associate Administrator, Office of Acquisition Policy, General Services Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule—Federal Acquisition Regulation; Acquisition of Commercial Items [FAC 2001-01; FAR Case 2000-303; Item II] (RIN: 9000-AI88) received November 13, 2001, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Government Reform.

4590. A letter from the Deputy Associate Administrator, Office of Acquisition Policy, General Services Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule—Federal Acquisition Regulation; Prompt Payment Under Cost-Reimbursement Contracts for Services [FAC 2001-01; FAR Case 2000-308; Item III] (RIN: 9000-AJ17) received November 13, 2001, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Government Reform.

4591. A letter from the Deputy Associate Administrator, Office of Acquisition Policy, General Services Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule—Federal Acquisition Regulation; Veterans' Entrepreneurship and Small Business Development Act of 1999 [FAC 2001-01; FAR Case 2000-302; Item V] (RIN: 9000-AI93) received November 13, 2001, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Government Reform.

4592. A letter from the Acting Commissioner of Social Security, Social Security Administration, transmitting the Administration's draft bill entitled, "Ticket to Work and Work Incentives Improvement Act Amendments of 2001"; jointly to the Committees on Ways and Means and Energy and Commerce.